

BOROUGH OF HARTLEPOOL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

on the Health and Sanitary
Circumstances of the Borough
for the year ended 31st Dec.,

1949



BOROUGH OF HARTLEPOOL



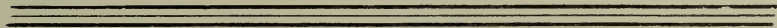
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BOROUGH OF HARTLEPOOL

Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee, 1949-50.

Chairman —Alderman H. Lightfoot.

Deputy Chairman —Councillor J. Stevenson.

His Worship the Mayor —Alderman F. Jacques, J.P.

Aldermen —F. J. Carr.
G. Davison.

Councillors —C. Chambers.
T. T. Aird.
V. Pape.
A. Ward.
J. Westmorland.
F. Windebank.
Mrs. M. Smith.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer
R. WEBSTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
(Resigned 8th April, 1949).

Medical Officer of Health, Area County Medical Officer and Assistant
School Medical Officer ;
J. L. SIDDLE, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
(Commenced 1st November, 1949).

Sanitary Inspectors, Meat and Food Inspectors :

G. A. WARD, M.S.I.A.

Certificate of R.S.I. and Sanitary Inspector's Joint Board.

Certificate of R.S.I. and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

F. HOLLOWAY,

Certificate of R.S.I. and Sanitary Inspector's Joint Board.

Health Visitors and School Nurses :

MISS M. JENKINS, S.R.N., H.V. Cert., S.C.M.

MISS A. BENDELOW, S.R.N., H.V. Cert., S.C.M. (commenced
1.11.49).

MISS S. HOOD, S.R.N.

MRS. E. PEDDLE, S.R.N. (Part-time).

Clerks :

MISS E. B. DRESSER.

MR. J. J. PRYDE.

*Health Department,
Frederic Street,
Hartlepool.*

To the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Hartlepool for the year 1949.

In presenting this report I wish to point out that during the year the Borough was without a Medical Officer of Health for 6 months. As a result of this, certain of the preventive measures could not be carried out to the full and the consequences are reflected in the incidence of certain infectious diseases.

The general layout and presentation of the report has been changed in an attempt to make the report more readable and the statistics easier to understand.

I have dealt more extensively than has been the rule, with infectious diseases, since control of infectious diseases is one of the few important functions remaining in the hands of the Medical Officer of Health of a Municipal Borough.

Looking at Hartlepool with its old houses, its insanitary conditions and its high incidence of tuberculosis one does not immediately get the impression of a healthy town but in order to see conditions in their correct light one must compare them with conditions of past years. If this is done I think it must be agreed that the town is becoming more healthy and a better place in which to live.

A certain amount of matter has been included in the report because it has a bearing on local health although it is no longer under the jurisdiction of the local authority.

I should like to thank you, Sir, and the members of the Health Committee for the help given to the staff in carrying out the duties of the Department.

I should also like to thank Mr. Ward and the other members of the staff for their co-operation and assistance without which little in the Department could have been accomplished.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. L. SIDDLE.

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES and ANALYSIS of MORTALITY in the Year 1949.

England & Wales, 126 County Boroughs & Great Towns, and 148 Smaller Towns.

	England and Wales	126 County Borough and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
Births—	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population			
Live Births	16.7	18.7	18.0	18.5
Still Births	0.39	0.47	0.40	0.37
Deaths—				
All Causes	11.7	12.5	11.6	12.2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52
Influenza....	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11
Small pox	0.00	0.00	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.59
Notifications—				
(Corrected)				
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Scarlet fever	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46
Whooping Cough	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70
Diphtheria	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07
Erysipelas	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17
Small pox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54
Pneumonia	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55
Acute Polio-myelitis	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18
Acute encephalitis....	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
Food poisoning	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19
Deaths—	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
All causes under 1 year of age	32	37	30	29
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7
Notifications—	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births			
(Corrected)				
Puerperal fever and Pyrexia	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Area (Acres) ....	....	....	....	....	....	1,841
Population (Census 1931) ....	....	....	....	....	....	20,545
Population (estimated mid 1949) ....	....	....	....	....	....	16,900
Rateable Value ....	....	....	....	....	....	£78,620
Sum represented by 1d. rate ....	....	....	....	....	£302 2 10d.	
Total Number of Dwelling houses at 31.12.49 ....	....	....	....	....	....	4,736
Number of new houses completed in 1949 ....	....	....	....	....	....	153

POPULATION.

Let us consider some of the salient features of the Vital Statistics of the Borough. Its population is estimated at 16,900 for mid 1949 as against 16,660 for mid 1948. This shows a slight increase over the estimate for the previous year in spite of the fact that the birth rate for the whole of 1949 was slightly lower and the death rate slightly higher than for the previous year.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Registrar General's Estimated Population</i>		
1935	18,930
1936	18,767
1937	18,180
1938	18,120
1939	17,870
1940	15,530
1941	15,280
1942	14,840
1943	14,510
1944	14,740
1945	14,950
1946	15,780
1947	16,020
1948	16,660
1949	16,900

As is seen from the table the present population is below pre-war level and is showing little change from the immediate post-war level.

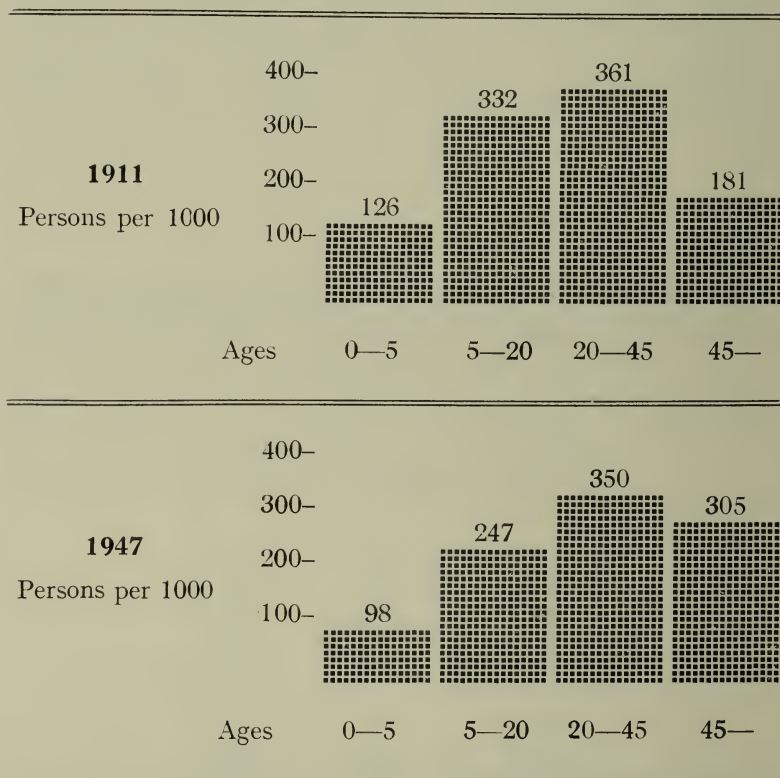
The manner in which the population is divided into age and sex groups is shown in the table below. This table shows the estimated figures for the year 1947 which is the last year for which such figures have been published and these figures are those used in connection with the remarks regarding the population which follow.

**ESTIMATED SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE
POPULATION FOR THE BOROUGH OF HARTLEPOOL**
—YEAR 1947—(General Register Office).

Age	Males	Females
0-4	810	771
5-14	1,333	1,369
15-17	444	416
18-19	172	267
20-24	509	712
25-34	1,186	1,195
35-44	1,034	1,016
45-54	997	1,017
55-64	690	803
65-74	471	518
75-84	181	208
85 & over	14	27
All ages	7,841	8,319

In order to show how the distribution of the population has altered, the following diagrams have been drawn up to show the change between the year 1911 and 1947.

BOROUGH OF HARTLEPOOL—AGE DISTRIBUTION PER 1,000 PERSONS FOR 1911 AND 1947.



This gives some idea of the increasing proportion of elderly people in the population. In 1911 out of every 1,000 persons living in Hartlepool 181 were over 45 years of age and 458 were below 20 years of age. In 1947 out of every 1,000 persons 305 were over 45 years of age and 345 were below 20 years of age. If we take the total figures of the over 65 group we find that in 1911 there were 764 persons in this group. In 1947 there were 1,419 whereas the total population has fallen from 20,615 in 1911 to 16,020 in 1947.

Another noticeable change in the constitution of the population is that the estimated population for 1947 shows a preponderance of females in the Borough—8,319 as against 7,841 males whereas the census of 1911, 1921 and 1931 showed preponderance of males (1911 — 10,544 males to 10,071 females) viz :

POPULATION—SEX DISTRIBUTION FOR YEARS 1911, 1921 & 1931.

	1911		1921		1931	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
All ages	10,544	10,071	10,676	10,321	10,036	10,002
Total	20,615		20,997		20,038	

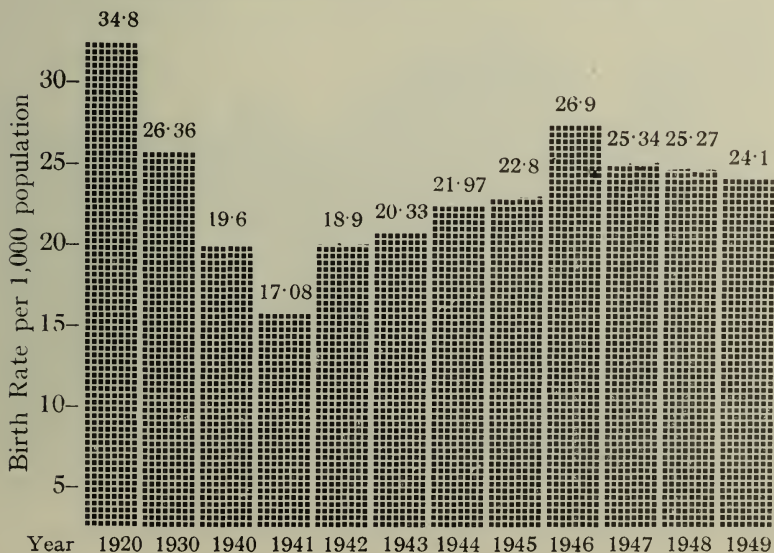
The figures for 1947 are for civilians only and this accounts for a certain reduction in the male population. The rest of the reduction must have been brought about by emigration from the Borough where the opportunities for young men are limited.

Amongst the estimated population of 16,900 there were in 1949 403 births and 231 deaths.

BIRTHS.

Births in the Borough during 1949 numbered 403 and were born of approximately 3,600 women of child bearing age. The birth rate for the year is 24.1 births per 1,000 population. This shows a slight decline on the immediate post-war figures although the figure is still well above the figure of pre-war years.

Borough of Hartlepool—Birth Rate 1920-1949.



The total births for 1949 were made up as shown below.

Live Births—	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	188	202	390
Illegitimate	7	6	13

Still Births—			
Legitimate	8	5	13
Illegitimate	—	—	—

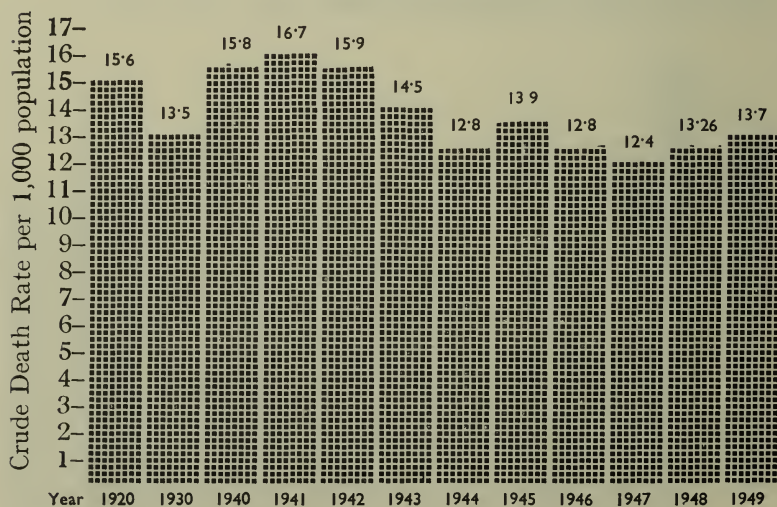
DEATHS.

There were 231 deaths recorded amongst the population of the Borough during 1949, this was made up of 126 males and 105 females. The crude death rate for the year is 13.7.

The figures for 1948 were 221 deaths with a crude death rate of 13.26.

The trend of the death rate in the Borough is shown by the diagram below.

BOROUGH OF HARTLEPOOL—CRUDE DEATH RATE 1920-1949.



The chief causes of death in the Borough were as follows :—

Borough of Hartlepool.

Table to show causes of death during the year 1949 together with percentage of the total for the 4 main causes—figures for 1948 are given for comparison.

CAUSES OF DEATH	1949			1948		
	M	F	% of total of main causes of death	M	F	% of total of main causes of death
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—		—	—	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—		—	—	
Scarlet Fever	—	—		—	—	
Whooping Cough	—	—		—	—	
Diphtheria	1	—		—	—	
Tuberculosis of the Res. System	5	4	} 4.3%	8	4	} 8.1%
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—		4	2	
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—		—	1	
Influenza	1	—		2	—	
Measles	—	—		—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio	—	—		—	—	
Encephalitis	—	1		—	—	
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	—	—		—	—	
Cancer of buc ; cav ; & Oesoph ; (M), Uterus (F)	1	2	} 17.3%	1	2	} 17%
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	5		7	5	
Cancer of Breast	—	3		—	3	
Cancer of all other sites	16	8		15	5	
Diabetes	3	1		—	—	
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	9	14	} 39%	16	14	} 37.5%
Heart Diseases	30	25		28	19	
Other diseases of Circ. System	7	7		1	5	
Bronchitis	9	9	} 12%	11	8	} 13.5%
Pneumonia	4	6		7	4	
Other Respiratory diseases	—	14		3	1	
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	—		1	—	
Diarrhoea under 2 years	2	—		1	1	
Appendicitis	—	—		—	—	
Other Digestive Diseases	2	7		2	3	
Nephritis	2	—		3	—	
Puer. & Post-abortion sepsis	—	—		—	—	
Other Maternal Causes	—	—		—	—	
Premature Birth	2	1		2	2	
Con. Mal. birth inj ; infant diseases	6	1		2	2	
Suicide	2	—		—	1	
Road Traffic Accident	2	—		2	—	
Other Violent Causes	3	3		2	4	
All other causes	11	7		15	2	

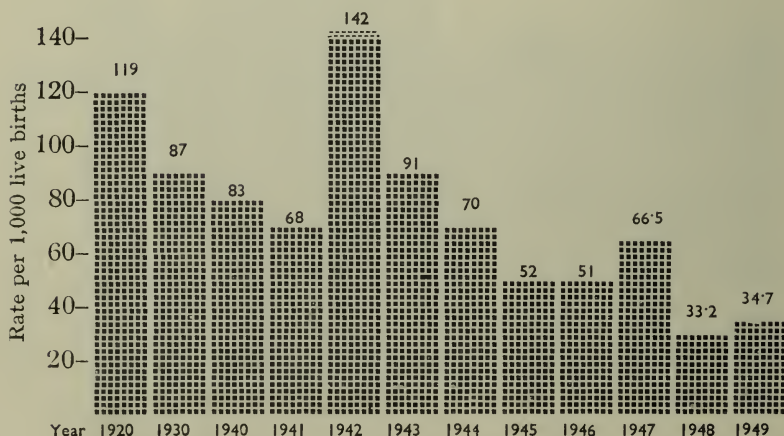
There has been little change in the death rate in the post-war years and the main causes of death remain as before viz. : Cancer, diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels, Bronchitis and Pneumonia, and Tuberculosis. The only appreciable change is with regard to Tuberculosis which showed a considerable improvement from 18 deaths in 1948 to 10 deaths in 1949. The position with regard to Tuberculosis will be dealt with in greater detail later in the report.

The predominance of cardo-vascular diseases as a cause of death is very marked and Cancer, the second highest cause, produces less than half as many deaths. Comparisons with pre-war figures show no change in the relative importance of these groups in causing death but the importance of Pneumonia and Bronchitis as a cause of death has been reduced, (1938—15% of deaths caused by Pneumonia as against 12% in 1949). This can no doubt be related to the advance in the development of modern remedies for these diseases.

Having dealt with deaths in general let us now consider certain sections of the death rate.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Borough of Hartlepool—Infantile Mortality Rates 1920 to 1949.



Causes of Infant Deaths in Relation to Age in Hartlepool, 1949.

DISEASE	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	Total under 4 wks.	1 mth. & under 3 mths.	3-6 m's.	6-9 m's.	9-12 m's.	Total
Gastro-enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Convulsions	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Congenital Heart Disease	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Atelectasis	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Multiple Development Deformities	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Debility from Birth	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1

Infantile Mortality Rates since 1940 with the
corresponding rates for England and Wales given
for comparison.

Years	Hartlepool	England & Wales
1940	73.2	55
1941	68.0	59
1942	142.3	49
1943	91.5	49
1944	70.9	46
1945	52.7	46
1946	51.6	43
1946	51.6	43
1947	66.5	41
1948	33.2	34
1949	34.7	32

The Infantile Mortality Rate is generally looked upon as an index of the standard of social or sanitary state of a community. It is usual to differentiate the rate of mortality of those under one month of age (the neo-natal rate) from that occurring amongst those up to the age of 12 months. The former is related more to ante-natal or natal conditions whilst the latter is dependent more on environmental conditions and the decline in the infantile mortality rate in the country has mainly been due to a decrease in the deaths in the latter age group.

In the Borough during 1949, 11 infants did not survive one month out of the total of 15 infants dying in the first year of life. The cause of death in case of the infants failing to survive one month were Prematurity 4; Congenital Heart Disease 1; Multiple Development Deformities 1; Atelectasis 2; Convulsions 1; Asphyxia Neonatorum 1; Debility from birth 1. Of the infants dying between 1 month and 1 year, 2 died from Gastro-enteritis, 1 of Pneumonia and 1 of Meningitis. It is in the latter group that those deaths are saved which result in a low infantile mortality rate in a district since these deaths are related to bad housing, overcrowding and defective sanitation coupled with maternal ignorance or neglect.

The trend with regard to the infantile mortality rate over the past 3 decades, has been downward as can be seen from the diagram. However, there is still much work to be done, although the improvement does not correspond with the large amount of effort that has been expended in the past 25 years in the sphere of child health.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

In none of the Vital Statistics is such a great improvement seen as in the Maternal Mortality Rate. It has been a great achievement of medical science that such improvements have been brought about. There were once again no deaths of mothers in connection with childbirth during the year—this maintains the good record which for the past 3 years has shown no deaths.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table gives the number of notifications of cases of infectious diseases and also the number of deaths for 1949 and for 1948.

Borough of Hartlepool—Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

Diseases	1949		1948	
	Total cases notified	Number of Deaths	Total cases notified	Number of Deaths
Diphtheria	14	1	2	—
Scarlet Fever	19	—	11	—
Measles	42	—	426	—
Polio-Encephalitis	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia	2	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	2	—	2	—

The age group distribution of cases of infectious diseases for the year 1949 :—

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 & over	Total
Diphtheria	—	—	—	2	—	6	4	1	1	—	—	—	14
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	2	—	7	7	1	—	—	—	—	19
Measles	—	5	10	6	9	11	—	—	1	—	—	—	42
Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Whooping Cough	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

Notifiable Diseases.

The notifiable diseases which require to be notified to the M.O.H. of districts under the provisions of the Public Health Acts are Smallpox, Cholera, Diphtheria, Membraneous Croup, Erysipelas, Scarlet Fever, Typhus, Typhoid and Enteric or Relapsing Fever.

Apart from these notifiable diseases there are others which are required to be notified by various orders or regulations. These include Plague, Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Acute Poliomyelitis, Tuberculosis, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Encephalitis Lethargica, Malaria, Dysentery, Acute Primary Pneumonia, Acute Influenzal Pneumonia, Puerperal Pyrexia, Measles and Whooping Cough.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, medical practitioners are required to notify cases of food poisoning.

On receipt of a notification of one of the notifiable diseases the home is visited by a member of the Public Health Department and enquiries made to ascertain firstly, what the source of the infection might be in order that steps may be taken to avoid further infection from that source, and secondly, to take such steps as may be necessary to reduce the spread of infection by the infected persons.

Admission to Hospital.

Not all patients suffering from a notifiable disease need to be admitted to hospital. The general practitioners take into consideration the home conditions and degree of severity of the case before deciding on admission to hospital.

Diphtheria.

Diphtheria is considered to be a preventable disease and has been eradicated in certain large towns in the world although, never, it seems, in any town in the United Kingdom. This, it would appear, is entirely due to the fact that the percentage of immunised children has never reached a high enough level. To be of effective value in a community it is estimated that at least 65% of children under 15 years of age should be immunised.

In the Borough during the past 12 months there have been 14 cases and 1 death. Of these 14 cases, 13 had not been immunised including the one child who died. This is the first death from the disease in the Borough as far as records show since 1941 and the total cases the highest since 1944. These figures could, in my opinion, be related to the fact that no M.O.H. was available for immunisation for 3 months during the year in question.

Immunisation Figures for the Year 1949.

Up to the end of 1949, 45% of pre-school children and 60% of children of school age had been immunised against Diphtheria. These figures are an improvement on those of previous years but are still not adequate to produce the fullest effect on the community.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 19 cases of this disease in 1949 compared with 11 in 1948. There were no deaths. Out of the 19 cases 11 were in the age group 5 years and under.

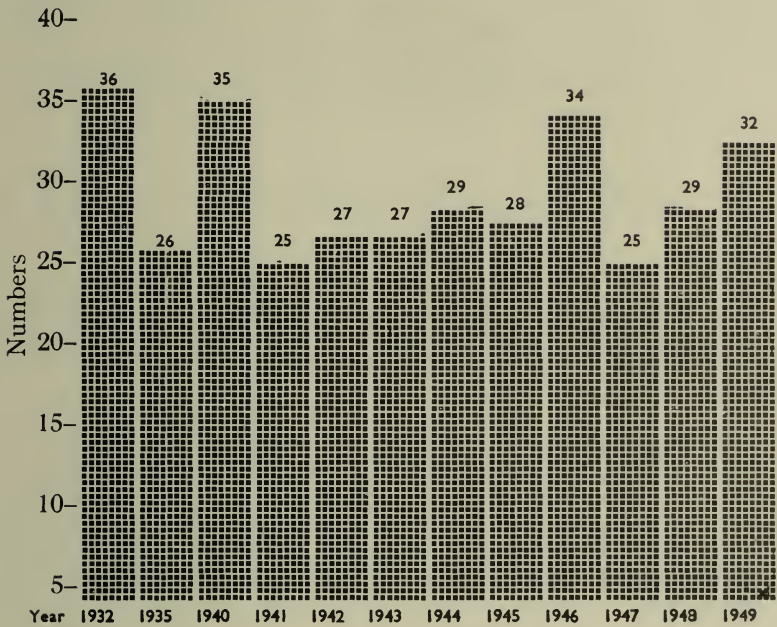
Measles.

Measles is an infection to which almost everyone succumbs, usually in childhood. Outbreaks of the disease usually have a periodicity so that some time elapses after an outbreak before another large outbreak occurs. In 1948 there were 426 and in 1949 there were only 42 cases. There were no deaths from the disease during 1949.

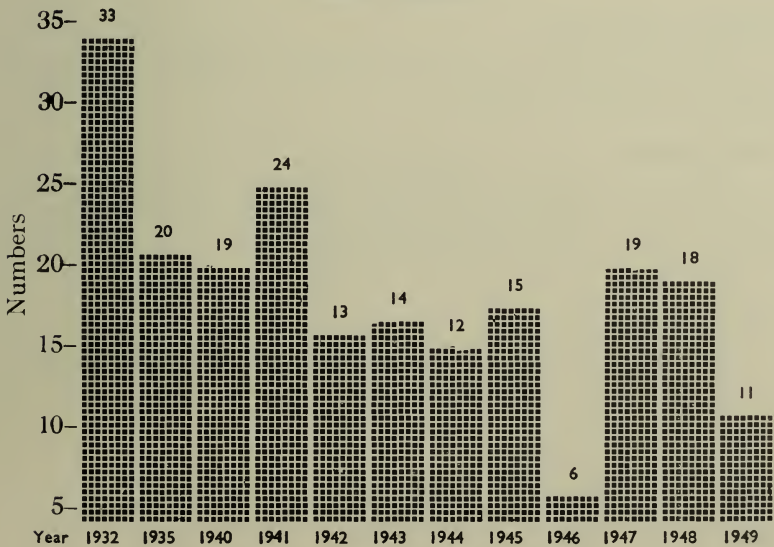
Tuberculosis.

The figures for this disease for 1949 are 32 new cases and 10 deaths. For the past 10 years only in 1940 and 1946 have the notified new cases been higher but on the other hand the number of deaths has fallen to a level which in the past 20 years has only once been bettered.

Borough of Hartlepool—Notification of New Cases of Tuberculosis 1932-1949.



Borough of Hartlepool—Deaths from Tuberculosis, 1932 - 1949.



The direct relationship between the incidence of Tuberculosis and overcrowding seems to be well established. Dr. S. Lelf, M.O.H., Borough of Willesden, in an article entitled "Poverty, Infantile Mortality and Tuberculosis," ends by saying,—“In conclusion, although there is no doubt that all the factors of poverty affect both the Infantile Mortality and the Tuberculosis Rate, the most important factor in the Tuberculosis Rate is the standard of overcrowding.”

It seems certain that until such times as the overcrowding in the Borough can be alleviated or materially reduced and housing conditions in general improved, Tuberculosis will continue to be prevalent.

The other chief factor which assists the spread of Tuberculosis is the lack of Sanatorium beds which results in infectious adults remaining at home to cause constant risk to any children in the home.

A bright spot on the horizon is the development by the Durham County Council of the use of B.C.G. vaccine. Although the use of this involves certain difficulties and it will no doubt be some time before it can be utilised to the full extent, it is hoped that its use together with an increasing number of new houses will show an improvement in the incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the coming years.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR HARTLEPOOL.

Infectious Diseases.

Infectious diseases cases are admitted to West Hartlepool Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Tuberculosis.

Dispensary Service, Institution Treatment and mass radiography are the responsibility of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Regional Hospital Board. The Dispensary is held at Mill House on Monday of each week.

General Hospitals.

Hartlepool Hospital; General Hospital, West Hartlepool; Cameron Hospital, West Hartlepool.

Nursing in the Home.

District Nursing is the responsibility of Durham County Council. There are 2 district nurses :—Nurse Carter, 22 Hepscott Avenue, Blackhall and Nurse Hart, 7 North Drive, West Hartlepool.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Durham County Council Child Welfare Clinics are held as under :

Frederic Street Clinic—every Tuesday 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. & 1.30 to 4.0 p.m.

West View Clinic —every Thursday, 1.30 p.m. to 4.0. p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

These Clinics are run by the Durham County Council through the general practitioners and are held at Frederic Street and West View Clinics.

Birth Control Clinics.

Durham County Council run a Birth Control Clinic which is held at Frederic Street Clinic twice each month.

Minor Ailment School Clinic.

The Durham County Council run a school Clinic on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at Frederic Street and West View Clinics.

Venereal Disease.

This Clinic is held at Mill House Dispensary, Stranton, West Hartlepool as follows :—

Males : Monday and Thursday at 6 p.m.

Females : Wednesday at 5.30 p.m. and Friday at 2.30 p.m.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY
INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1949.

Health Department,
Frederic Street,
Hartlepool.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health and Housing Committee.**

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in reporting on the work of my Department for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

In the report the statistical tables have been kept to a minimum but those included do portray the unremitting day to day work of the Department, unspectacular background work though it may be, and its intimate impact on the everyday life of the inhabitants.

For the first time for a number of years I am able to report a decrease in the amount of time that has had to be spent on the repair and maintenance of property. In view of the rapid deterioration of property during the war years the present scale of repair work can only be described as a palliative to keep homes reasonably fit for occupation until demolition, in a large number of cases, can take place. High cost is still a deterrent to repair work and it is not economically or practically possible to improve the vast majority of houses to a reasonable standard. Bad housing is still one of the main causes of bad health, physical and mental, with an ever present demand on the medical curative services. The Council's decision to re-commence slum clearance even on a limited scale is to be welcomed and more detailed reasons are given in my report.

The year has also seen the advent of new milk legislation transferring powers from local authorities to Food and Drugs authorities and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Whether this will prove to be for better or for worse it does seem to me a retrograde step when so much emphasis is being placed on the question of all aspects of Food Hygiene that there should be introduced two further divisions of responsibility.

The various heads in the following report are the main acts controlling our duties.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. A. WARD,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

A total of 418 houses were inspected during the year, and 1261 re-inspections were made in respect of properties under notice. 249 formal notices were served affecting 264 houses with regard to nuisances existing thereon and the terms of 237 such notices affecting 250 houses were complied with. Upon the instructions of the Committee 28 Statutory Notices were served in the year with respect to 31 houses and 26 such notices were complied with in respect of 33 houses.

It is to be noted that 8 Statutory Notices, not all fully complied with, were abated on default of the owner to 13 houses and the necessary action taken to recover the expenses incurred which amounted to a total of £70 5s. 2d. It did not prove necessary to take proceedings to recover expenditure incurred.

To summarise, a total of 270 notices were served in respect of 291 houses and 263 such notices were complied with to 283 houses.

The foregoing statistics show some reduction on those of the previous years due, I think, to two principal causes—an easing of the building material position and relatively little bad weather, particularly gales, during the year. Still rising costs continued to act as a deterrent to property owners in carrying out repairs and improvements to their property with a result that generally speaking, only the bare essentials of repairs are being carried out. One effect of this will no doubt be to shorten the life of a large proportion of dwelling houses through inability of owners to keep them in a good state of repair.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Dwellinghouses.	<i>Inspection</i>	<i>Re-inspections</i>	Total
Notifiable diseases	34	2	34
Other Diseases	—	—	—
Verminous Premises	12	2	14
Dirty Premises	7	4	11
Overcrowded condition	—	—	—
Houses let in lodgings	—	—	—
Housing & Public Health Acts	418	1534	1952
Water Supply....	1	—	1
Animals, etc. kept	—	—	—
Supervision of removals	243	—	243
Rat infested premises	12	6	18
Other Premises.			
Offensive trades	17	5	22
Marine Stores	—	—	—
Accumulation of rubbish	3	3	6
Factories with mechanical power	50	3	53
Factories with no mechanical power	10	—	10

	<i>Inspection</i>	<i>Re-inspections</i>	Total
Workplaces	—	—	—
Licensed Premises	50	114	164
Places of Public Entertainment	—	—	—

Food Premises.

Meat Shops	42	—	42
Provision Shops	31	—	31
Fish Shops—wet	8	2	10
Fish Shops—fried	18	2	20
Milk Shops and Dairies	10	—	10
Cowsheds	8	—	8
Restaurant Kitchens....	60	10	70
Bake-houses	23	3	26
Ice Cream Premises	51	10	61

Miscellaneous—Action taken.

No. of complaints investigated during year	210
Informal notices served	249
Informal notices complied with	237
Second or reminder notices sent	248
Nuisances abated without service of written notice	4
Statutory notices served	28
Statutory notices complied with	26
Notices abated on default of owner	8
Warning letters sent	11
Interviews with owners	19
Interviews with builders	40

Sanitary Improvements and repairs effected :—

	<i>No Notice</i>	<i>By owner under notice</i>	<i>Council on default of Owner</i>
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Houses.

Repaired and made fit	4	270	13
Roofs repaired	—	91	2
Floors repaired, ventilated etc.	—	24	1
Plastered walls and ceilings repaired	—	39	3
Windows repaired and sashcords renewed	—	28	1
Pantry repaired or provided	—	1	—
Staircases repaired (internal and external)	—	12	—
Doors rehung or repaired	—	43	5
Fireplaces, ranges repaired, re-set, renewed	—	31	3
Chimneys or stacks repaired	—	23	1
New sinks provided and fixed	—	4	—

	<i>No Notice</i>	<i>By owner under notice</i>	<i>Council on default of owner.</i>
Sink wastes repaired or renewed	—	16	—
Water supply provided inside houses	—	—	—
Wash coppers repaired or provided	—	24	1
Pumps repaired	—	1	1
Walls pointed....	—	23	1
Outbuildings repaired	—	8	2
Eaves and downspouts repaired or renewed	—	55	3
Dangerous walls repaired	—	4	4
Yard paving repaired	—	12	—
Water services repaired	1	30	1
Dust bins provided	—	26	1

Verminous, etc. Premises.

Dirty houses cleansed	—	1	—
Verminous houses—bugs	—	29	—
Verminous houses—other vermin	39	—	—
Bedding etc. disinfested (lots)	29	—	—
Bedding etc. destroyed (lots)	73	—	—

Drainage.

Obstructed drains cleansed	2	30	1
New gullys fixed in yards	—	2	1
Drains repaired and reconstructed	—	5	1
Inspection chambers built	—	1	—
W.C. basins renewed....	—	6	1
W.C. pedestal basins in lieu of old type	—	3	—
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	—	28	1
W.C. compartments cleansed	—	—	—
W.C. compartments repaired	1	20	2

Vermin Infestation.

There has been no variation in the methods used from previous years, i.e. liquid and powder insecticides.

Bug infested houses dealt with numbered 29, a number of which were properties vacated by successful applicants for new houses. Six Council properties infested were all old leasehold houses.

The furniture and effects of 243 tenants were inspected and disinfested as necessary prior to rehousing taking place and 16 properties thus rendered vacant were disinfested prior to reletting.

Furniture and bedding not capable of being cleansed satisfactorily is removed and destroyed ; this action was carried out in 73 cases,

A total of 70 houses were treated during the year for vermin infestation as below.

Bug infested	29	Crickets	3
Black beetles	26	Wood boring	
Fleas	10	beetles	2

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Of late years more and more attention has been given to the problem of atmospheric pollution and the year under review saw the formation of a North Eastern Provincial Smoke Abatement Council and a Standing Committee of Tees-side Local Authorities on Atmospheric Pollution and this authority gave their support to both organisations. The latter body are greatly concerned with the problem from the very heavy concentration of industry on Tees-side, not confined by town boundaries, and it was agreed by nearly all authorities in the area to co-operate by obtaining the necessary statistical data, to consider the problems arising from the atmospheric pollution and to examine methods of abating the nuisance. As a first step it was agreed to obtain the necessary statistical data by the use of standard deposit gauges. It must be appreciated the success of investigations of this nature depends on the proper use of standard methods and instruments specifically developed for dealing with atmospheric pollution. The investigation envisaged is a co-operative one and depends for its adequacy on as many local authorities as possible taking part, the ultimate purpose being to give assistance to both local authorities and industries in dealing with the smoke problem and with public health questions.

This authority agreed in principle and proposed to put into operation, on sites to be approved, of 3 standard deposit gauges. It is anticipated that more than 40 will eventually be in use on the Tees-side area.

Dust Nuisance—British Periclase Co. Ltd.

During the year orders were placed for the provision of the necessary flue gas washing powers and electro-static precipitators to operate when the extended plant is put into operation in 1950.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Premises—Fish Curing 7 ; Miscellaneous 2.

Two establishments carrying on the trade of fish curers had their annual licences renewed for a further period of twelve months.

The collection of fish offal from curing houses, fried and wet fish shops continues to work in a satisfactory manner though it is to be noted and regretted that fish mongers are not availing themselves of the service provided to the full extent.

Informal action, as indicated below, had to be taken on occasions to abate nuisances.

Limewash 2 ; lack of cleanliness 1.

WATER SUPPLY.

The town is supplied with water by the Hartlepool Gas and Water Co. Ltd., from boreholes situated at two places within the district of the County Borough of West Hartlepool. There is no information to show that the supply has been insufficient in quantity during the year.

The supply has been found to be at all times pure and wholesome though of outstanding hardness.

With the exception of a few houses in an area taken over in boundary extensions in 1936 all the houses in the town are supplied from public water mains direct to the houses.

Report on water sample from supply :—

				<i>Parts per 100,000</i>
Chlorine as Chlorides	....	....	....	13.6500
Nitrogen as Nitrates	....	....	....	.1488
Ammonia	....	....	....	.0012
Albuminoid Ammonia	....	....	....	.0030
Oxygen Absorption	....	....	....	.0034
Injurious Metals	....	....	....	None
Total Solid Matter dried @ 100 °C.				89.0000
pH value of Sample	....	....	....	7.3
				<hr/>
Temporary Hardness	....	24.5	Degrees	
Permanent Hardness	....	9.4	„	
				<hr/>
Colour of sample on Hazen Scale	....			1
Appearance of Sample in 2 foot tube				clear and bright.
Odour when heated to 50 °C.	....			None
				<hr/>

MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION.

Satisfactory.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar	
@ 37 °C. after 72 hours 	0 per ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar	
@ 20-22 °C. after 72 hours 	1 in 2 ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test at 37 °C. after	
72 hours 	Negative in 100 ml.
Clostridium Welchii Test @ 45 °C. in	
40 ml. 	Negative.

OBSERVATIONS.

The sample is free from any form of undesirable drainage, and it is of good and satisfactory quality for human consumption.

HOUSING ACTS 1936-1949.

During the course of the year the Ministry of Health agreed to re-open the enquiry, previously heard in 1939, with respect to three clearance orders concerning 21 houses ; confirmation had not been received by the end of the year. Initially, there had been 6 orders in respect of 65 houses but one area had been voluntarily demolished by the owner, one acquired by the Council and the resolution in respect of another area containing 35 houses rescinded as it was proposed to include it in a larger compulsory purchase order.

By the year's end preliminary inspections were in hand in respect of 7 proposed compulsory purchase orders affecting 103 houses, a good number being derelict, so that proper redevelopment of pre-war cleared sites could be carried out. In deciding on their policy of a limited slum clearance the Council was influenced by the practical results of their existing rehousing actions as a result of which it was becoming very apparent that numerous applicants from the rehousing list were being rehoused from insanitary properties which were again being re-let ; without the Council possessing adequate powers to prevent re-occupation except in isolated cases. In several instances rehousing has taken place more than once from one house—a ridiculous and uneconomical procedure. It should be borne in mind that the existing building programme is to provide houses for families who have no separate home of their own and the extent of this problem in any town cannot be assessed by the size of the waiting list, nor is it practicable in building new estates to provide one class of housing accommodation only if a proper balance is to be maintained between different types of houses insofar as only 25% of applicants on the housing list have no separate house. It is hardly likely that demands for slum clearance rehousing will materially affect their rehousing and in any event it is to be expected that a proportion only of the Council's allocation of new houses will be allocated to slum clearance rehousing.

Individual Unfit Houses.

During the year 1 closing order was made in respect of 1 house affecting 5 occupants who were rehoused.

In addition to the making of formal closing orders informal action secured the voluntary closure of 9 houses and the rehousing of 26 persons ; the House Management Committee rehouse on my certificate as to the insanitary conditions of the house and on a written undertaking from the owner not to re-let.

Overcrowding.

It is impossible to give an accurate picture of the present overcrowding position without carrying out a fresh survey. To obtain a true picture of the Council's housing requirements in relation to slum clearance it is becoming apparent that such a survey will have to be carried out in the near future ; it is not expedient or economical to rehouse overcrowded families, at present resident in properties that will be dealt with in the early part of the slum clearance programme, for the houses thus vacated to be re-let and then for a second lot of alternative accommodation, presumably another new house, to be provided.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	418
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1952
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included in sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 & 1932	63
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	275
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	63
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	260

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Authority or their officers	250
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

A—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	26
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	18
(b) by local authority in default of owners	11

B—Proceedings under the Public Health Act :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	1
(b) by local authority in default of owners	3

C—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

D—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	Not known
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	Not known
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	Not known
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	—
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	—
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	—

- (d) Particulars of any such cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding (abated after informal action had been taken).... —
- (e) Any other particulars in respect of overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report —

(It is not possible to give an accurate picture of the present overcrowding position without carrying out a fresh survey).

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1937.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

27 inspections of meat and other foods were carried out during the year, and weight of food condemned amounted to 9 cwt. 7 st. 6 lbs. The weight of food condemned shows a decrease over the previous year, but would no doubt be further considerably reduced if it were not for the large number of canned points food for which condemnation was sought so as to recoup points capital. Food condemned :—

Miscellaneous canned goods	....	19 st. 6 lbs.
Fish	....	34 st.
Meat	....	16 st. 12 lbs.
Miscellaneous goods	....	3 st. 12 lbs.

There are no slaughterhouses in the town and centralised slaughtering is carried out in the adjoining town of West Hartlepool; the principal cause for the condemnation of meat in retail butchers' shops was bone taint.

Public Health (Meat Regulations) 1924.

All the butchers' shops in the town continue to be well maintained though lack of accommodation is a handicap in a number of cases. The majority of shops are provided with refrigerators—an essential requirement in all such shops.

One shop was closed down during the year.

No remedial action was required.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

Persons and premises registered under the above orders are as follows :—

Producers (cowsheds)	3
Distributors with retail dairy premises in the town—5	
Distributors with no retail dairy premises in the town—5	
	10
Retail purveyors of bottled milk only	30

All premises continued to be maintained in a satisfactory condition. Informal action to be taken in one case to secure redecoration of a dairy and in respect of one cowshed to secure repairs to the floor of standings.

With the operation of the regulations from the 1st October the necessary steps were taken to cancel the registration of two dairy premises in the town. In one instance only a small proportion of loose milk was sold and this purveyor immediately changed over to bottled milk. In the other case all milk sold was undesignated loose milk and the purveyor had by the year end made the necessary arrangements to change over to bottled designated milk.

Only a very small quantity of ungraded milk is now on sale in the Hart Station area.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

Licences granted under this order are as follows :—

T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk—dealers licences 7 supplementary licences 2	
Pasteurised Milk —dealers licences 6 supplementary licences 2	
Sterilised Milk —dealers licences 27	

Both T.T. Pasteurised and Pasteurised milk on sale in the town are each derived from 3 sources and the supply position showed improvement over the previous year and the quality was well maintained.

Purity of Milk Supplies—Bacteriological Examination.

T.T. Pasteurised Milk.—Out of 20 samples submitted for examination only 2 failed to pass the Methylene blue test as to adequate keeping quality and only one failed the Phosphatase test as to efficiency of pasteurising.

Pasteurised Milk.—Out of 26 samples submitted only 2 failed the Methylene blue test and all passed the Phosphatase test.

A representative number of samples were school milks.

Sterilised Milk.—2 samples submitted satisfied the prescribed tests.

Undesignated Raw Milk.—12 samples were submitted for examination of which 7 satisfied the test for accredited milk (a designated standard). A producer of milk consistently below accredited standard is outside the Borough and the supply was discontinued at the year end.

Presence of Tubercle Bacilli.—2 samples of graded milk and 7 samples of raw milk were submitted for animal inoculation for the presence of tubercle. All were negative.

Producers were always advised in writing of any unsatisfactory sample results but it can still be said that the standard of milk produced and on sale within the Borough is very good indeed.

Ice Cream.

Premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream	3
Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	23

Early in the year two adjoining premises used for manufacture were, together with equipment in use, pooled ; the use of these premises was subsequently entirely discontinued in December.

9 premises were registered for the first time during the year for the sale of ice cream.

Both manufacturers of ice cream were using a boiled mix and in both cases all the necessary equipment was provided to comply with the Heat Treatment Regulations.

Practically the whole of ice cream on retail sale from shops is prepacked but mostly in bulk as sold from vehicles. Vehicles were well fitted out and maintained.

Heat Treatment Regulations, 1947 and 1948.

Purity of Ice Cream—Bacteriological Examination.

A total of 21 samples were submitted from 7 producers, 15 samples being from the 2 local producers ; owing to the large number of outside producers whose ice cream is on sale in the town it is only possible to take occasional samples of their products. Each producer is advised as to unsatisfactory samples but no follow up action is possible in respect of samples produced by outside producers.

The results of the examinations for a provisional grading can at the best only be described as erratic. All samples were packed in dry ice for despatch to the laboratory.

The following table shows the results of the examinations :—

	Provisional Grade.				Total
	I Satisfactory	II	III Unsatisfactory	IV	
Producer A	2	1	4	1	8
Producer B	2	2	2	1	7
Miscellaneous	1	2	2	1	6
Totals	5	5	8	3	21

It is recommended that in interpreting the results over 6 months 50% of the samples should fall into Grade I and 80% into Grade I or II.

Producer A went out of production in December at a time when the Committee were contemplating further action against the firm, particularly in view of the previous years results. For the previous year producer B had consistently satisfactory results and it is difficult to appreciate why during the year under review samples were alternatively good and bad. Close co-operation was maintained with producers at all times.

Quality Sampling of Ice Cream.

A total of 12 samples were submitted to the public analyst, 6 from each producer, and each producer had one sample that failed to give the minimum fat content of 2.5% required by the Ministry of Food to entitle the producer to his additional sugar allocation. Copies of all results were supplied to the Ministry of Food. The following table shows the average quality of ice cream produced by each producer :—

Producer A	Fat 3.73%	Sugar 12.35%.
Producer B	Fat 2.61%	Sugar 11.43%.

The results are a long way below what can be regarded as a minimum standard of fat content, on which the nutritional value of ice cream can be assessed.

Food Preparing Premises—Restaurants, Kitchens, etc.

Catering establishments in this town fall into two categories, permanent and temporary premises for summer season ; all, however, were subject to routine inspection and particularly so during the summer months.

During the year inspections were made of all such premises to ascertain and enforce the exhibition of second issue placques as to personal hygiene issued free by the British Tourist and Holidays Board, who are trying by voluntary co-operation within the trade to

promote hygiene in the handling of food. Generally placques had been exhibited as intended.

No specified measures have been taken in the way of Clean Food Campaigns etc. but as soon as pressure of work permits it is proposed to enforce the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act in respect of all classes of food premises. At the close of the year favourable consideration was being given to adopting the Model Byelaws as to Handling, Wrapping and delivery of food.

Licensed Premises.

In 1940 action taken to raise the hygienic arrangements and sanitary accommodation at all licensed premises in the town had to be deferred before all the work had been carried out. In April all Breweries who had not completed this work were contacted and requested to carry out the necessary remedial action; the request met with a ready response and by the year end practically the whole of such premises had been brought up to standard.

Similarly, proprietors of licensed clubs in the town were approached and it was suggested that a similar standard be adopted and in the majority of cases there was willing co-operation in getting the work effected.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Routine inspections of factories during the year gives rise to little comment.

With regard to defects in the design and layout of sanitary accommodation at factories on the Trading Estate, mentioned in last year's report, and following a joint inspection of the factories with H.M. District Inspector of Factories, notices were served on all the occupiers and on the North Eastern Trading Estates Ltd., to rectify the defects—generally the provision of intervening ventilated spaces to conveniences. Subsequently a meeting was held at the factories with representatives of North Eastern Trading Estates Ltd., and this company eventually accepted responsibility for remedial measures and put the necessary work in hand by the end of the year.

It is more than a little surprising that factories erected on behalf of one Government Department fail to comply with legal requirements of another.

Details of inspections carried out and defects discovered are indicated in the following table :—

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	23	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	56	64	8	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	8	—	—
TOTAL	82	95	8	—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found remedied		Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	4	4	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences ..				
(a) insufficient	5	5	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	8	8	8	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	17	17	8	—

INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

A total of 83 areas were treated, 15 being outstanding on the previous year and as heretofore the Ministry of Food control measures were operated. Little arose which called for comment on the year's working, the majority of infestations being of a sporadic nature, as is shown by the number of minor infestations treated, which was 78 against 53 in the previous year. The number of major infestations treated showed an increase of 1. The majority of the properties in which major infestations occur is being treated on a contract basis.

Tabulated details of the work carried out are shown below.

Degree of Infestation	In hand from previous year	Total treated	Abated	In hand year end	Dead Rats	found Mice
Reservoir	—	—	—	—	—	—
Major	4	5	—	5	558	—
Minor	11	78	65	13	361	46
TOTALS	15	83	65	18	919	46

Types of infested areas dealt with are as below.

Industrial Premises	4	Domestic Property, blocks	71
Fish Trade Premises	—	Provision Shops	—
Tips	1	Business Premises	7
Allotments	1	Restaurants	3
Hospitals	1		

